



NTSB National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Highway Safety

Falsework Guidance

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Introduction

- Falsework is a construction term meaning temporary support
- CDOT did not consider the accident bracing to be falsework
- Falsework has important design and planning implications

Definitions of Falsework

- CDOT – *Supports vertical loads*
- AASHTO – *Supports structural elements of concrete, steel, masonry, or other materials during their construction*
- FHWA – *Supports the permanent structure until it becomes self-supporting*
- OSHA – *No definition of falsework*

CDOT Specifications

- CDOT did not consider the braces falsework
 - Did not support vertical loads
- Had CDOT considered the braces falsework
 - CDOT would have required falsework drawings approved by a P.E.

OSHA Regulations

- No OSHA regulations for falsework
- AASHTO and FHWA would have required falsework drawings
- OSHA is what contractors typically look to for guidance

Inconsistent Terminology

- CDOT definition is narrow
- FHWA and AASHTO definitions are broad
- OSHA has no definition
- Steel erectors may not be following appropriate guidance

Summary

- Inconsistent falsework definitions lead to inconsistent requirements
 - Causes planning and design without engineering input
 - Puts the public in jeopardy



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